से सरकार ने बालिका भ्रूण की सुरक्षा के लिए कदम उठाए हैं।

(ग) और (घ) एम०टी०पी० अधिनियम, 1971 के अधिनियमन से सरकार किए गए गर्भपातों की संख्या का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए अनुमोदित एम०टी०पी० केन्द्रों में चिकित्सीय गर्भ-समापन संबंधी सेवाओं की मानीटरिंग कर रही है। वैसे, अवैध गर्भपातों के कोई पुष्ट आंकड़े नहीं हैं। चिकित्सीय गर्भ-समापन अधिनियम, 1971 और नियम और विनियम, 1975 के कार्यान्वयन के माध्यम से केन्द्र और राज्य सरकारें अवैध गर्भपातों के विरुद्ध उपाय कर रही हैं।

Children not covered under Pulse Polio

1137. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "10 million children not covered under Pulse Polio", appeared in the Times of India, dated 18th January, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While preliminary reports received from the states indicate 100% coverage under Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) Programme evaluation of the coverage is being conducted annually through an independent agency. The evaluation for the year 1997-98 indicates 92% of coverage of the children below 5 years of age against the target of 126 million children. Thus it is estimated that about 10 million children did not receive both of the polio doses.

(c) A small perventage of children gets missed out during the PPI drive because of inability of the parents to bring their children to the booths. India is determined to achieve zero incidence of polio by 2000. Government in consultation with national and international experts, has decided upon a strategy for intensifying PPI programme by taking some additional measures over and above the holding of two PPIs in December, and January. On March 14, 1999, one additional round of polio immunization will be conducted through out the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan where infection is still widespread, while in all other states a population of 100,000 surrounding each positive case of polio will be covered on that day. Such additional rounds are also contemplated in October and November, 1999. Apart from vaccination at booths, the additioal rounds will also include a house to house immunization drive for missed out children.

Increase in malaria incidents in Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal

1138. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of malaria in the tribal districts of Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) whether the death toll due to malaria in these States has been increasing; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to eradicate malaria in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) As per reports received from these States, the incidence of malaria in most of the tribal predominant districts showed a declining trend during 1998 as compared to 1997.

(b) and (c) The reports received from these States indicate that the number of deaths due to malaria remained almost static during the years 1997 and 1998.

However, the steps taken to control malaria include:—

— Early case detection and prompt treatment (EDPT);